

REMARKS

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination on the merits.

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 13 are independent. All of the pending claims have been allowed by the Notice of Allowance dated November 26, 2003. In response to the Notice of Allowance, Applicant filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) on February 26, 2004 with an Information Disclosure Statement. By this Preliminary Amendment, independent claims 1 and 13 are amended. No new matter has been added by these Preliminary Amendment. Each of claims 1 and 13 as amended recites that the intermediate image is formed in air adjacent to the light deflecting means.

Applicant notes that U.S. Patent No. 5,442,413 to Tejima et al. ("Tejima") discloses that the optical arrangement is based on Scheimpflug's law. See, for example, col. 8, lines 8-13 of Tejima. Tejima further discloses that the intermediate image is formed by the first imaging optical system and is positioned in the hologram. See, Figs. 22 and 23; and col. 15, lines 20-51 of Tejima.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that the invention as featured in claims 1 and 13 as amended, and claims depending therefrom, is patentable over Tejima for at least the reasons discussed above.

PATENT

Application Serial No. 09/680,770
Preliminary Amendment dated March 22, 2004
Docket No. 1232-4651

AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4651). **A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.**

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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